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OLC 78-2560

7 August 1978

Prop. Leg.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

FROM :
Assistant Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Willingness of Representative Bob Wilson
(R., Calif.) to Introduce Legislation
Which Would Impose Criminal Penalties
on Individuals who Knowingly Reveal
the Identities of CIA Case Officers
and Agents

1. On 7 August 1978 I accompanied Don Gregg, Chief, to the office of Representative Bob Wilson to brief Mr. Wilson in response to Mr. Wilson's questions about . Once this briefing (in response to a constituent request) had been completed Mr. Gregg mentioned that John Stein, ADDO, had just returned from an extended trip to the Far East Division. Mr. Stein returned from his trip with the overall observation that morale was really quite good with one notable exception. He said that nearly all case officers were deeply concerned about revelations of identities of CIA officers as well as agents by Phillip Agee and other like-minded persons.

2. Mr. Wilson indicated that he shared this concern and said that he would be willing to introduce legislation imposing criminal penalties on those (I presume limited to former staffers) who knowingly reveal the identities of CIA officers and/or agents. When asked about the likelihood of getting such legislation passed during this session of Congress, Mr. Wilson indicated that it would be difficult but possible. He suggested that perhaps the most expeditious way of getting legislation through at this term would be via an amendment to some other legislation.

3. I recommend that one of us take the same language which has already been supplied to Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D., Texas) and deliver it to Mr. Wilson as soon as possible, preferably this week. I should add

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that Fred Hull, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence staff, told Mr. Wilson that Representative Les Aspin (D., Wis.) is not at all interested in this sort of legislation (as opposed to sources and methods legislation).

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cc:

Don Greggsm

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